



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office for Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

THE SUB-REGIONAL MEETING ON EDUCATION 2030: IMPLEMENTING THE SDG4 IN CENTRAL ASIA

22-24 February 2017 in Grand Hotel Tien Shan, Almaty, Kazakhstan

THE CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The global education community launched the Education 2030 agenda at the World Education Forum in 2015. This new education agenda was captured in the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) adopted by Heads of Governments' at the United Nations in 2015, which urged Member States of the United Nations to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030.

Localizing SDG4 targets into national priorities and sector plans requires realignment and repositioning of the existing national education sector plans, policies financing and monitoring frameworks. There is also a need for integrating the entirety of SDG4 under the overall framework of the country sustainable development policies, plans and programmes. All stakeholders, including government, international development partners and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, civil society and private sector, will have to be engaged to contribute to the goal's implementation. For this purpose, coordination, partnership and monitoring and reporting mechanisms must be developed at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels to support the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030.

In 2015, the 1st Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED I) developed an understanding of implications of adopting the SDG4 in country programmes. Following the meeting, some countries organized national consultations to integrate SDG4 targets into national plans; conducted a data mapping exercise; reviewed, revived and formed coordination committees; and translated key documents, including the Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA), into local languages. By the second quarter of 2016, the Education 2030 Global Steering Committee was established, with its Secretariat based at UNESCO Headquarters.

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok (UNESCO Bangkok), the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and Regional Office for South Asia, with support from the Government of Japan, held the 2nd APMED II in Bangkok on 16-18 November 2016 and discussed key priorities, milestones, targets, indicators and actions to be followed up for the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030. APMED-II served to ensure that Asia-Pacific Member States are able to proceed with the planning and monitoring procedures for a successful implementation of SDG4 in their countries.

However, the Central Asian countries have not been able to fully benefit from the APMED I & II meetings due to their different contexts from the rest of Asia-Pacific countries, language barriers, and significant underrepresentation. These countries may therefore, face significant challenges in translating global SDG4 targets into their sector plans, which have to reflect regional, national and local characteristics and to identify available resources, capacity and data needs at national level. The counterparts from Central Asia need information and guidance on the implementation of SDG4 at national and local levels.

In this context, UNESCO Cluster Bureau for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (UNESCO Almaty) will hold a Sub-Regional Meeting on Education 2030 to accelerate the planning, implementation and monitoring of the SDG4-Education 2030 agenda in Central Asia. The workshop will also officially launch the 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report "Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all" in Russian, which examines complex links between education and key development sectors with an implication for education policy.

Overarching objective

By the end of the meeting a SDG4-Education 2030 implementation roadmaps would be prepared for each participating country in Central Asia.

Objectives

- To designate and confirm the National SDG 4 Coordinators in each Country;
- To establish a network of national SDG4 coordinators in Central Asia;
- To present the key highlights of the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report 2016 in Russian language;
- To update Member States on the latest global, regional, sub-regional and national trends, developments on SDG4-Education 2030;
- To identify key challenges and opportunities (with regard to strategies, policy, resources, capacity, data, structures, etc.) at a country level in relation to the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030;
- To discuss and agree on the timeframe for the completion of the sub-regional and individual country's implementation strategies, key priorities and actions towards the achievement of SDG4-Education 2030 in Central Asia.

Structure of the workshop

This technical meeting will be conducted over the course of three days. The meeting will use a combination of plenary sessions and parallel group discussions to encourage active participation and to provide audience exposure to expert opinion, supplied by policy reference papers and guidelines. The main purpose of the parallel group discussions is to generate adequate and detailed inputs for the implementation roadmaps at a country level.

The proposed structure of the workshop is as follows:

Day 1:

- The presentation of the 2016 Global Education Report;
- Updates on the latest global, regional and national developments on SDG4-Education 2030, with focus on the progress and challenges integrating and implementing the strategies to meet SDG4 targets in Central Asia.

Day 2:

- Review and discussion of challenges related to sector plans, strategies, policies, resources, capacity, and monitoring in different countries and drafting of country action plans, incorporating applicable approaches and tools to achieve all SDG4 targets;
- Present major opportunities, challenges and milestones of the SDG4 targets and Education 2030 priorities for implementation, identified by each group.

Day 3:

- Agreement on the implementation roadmaps and next steps towards the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030 in countries of Central Asia.

Country Preparatory Work

In preparation for the discussion and group work during the Sub-Regional Meeting on SDG4 and Education 2030 Framework for Action, all country participants are asked to organize preliminary consultations with key stakeholders with the following objectives:

- Establish a coordination mechanism to be led by the Ministry of Education and SDG4 national coordinator(s);
- Review implications and challenges of adopting the SDG4-Education 2030 targets in a country's education sectors plans and identify challenges in implementing and monitoring the agenda at a country level, including related to the strategic alignment of SDG4 and Education 2030 with a long-term national socio-economic

strategies and plans;

- Develop an Action plan for the coordination/partnerships and M&E framework at country level;
- Assess country's needs related to policy gaps, strategy, resources, and capacity and data issues to effectively localize and implement Education 2030 agenda;
- Complete a pre-meeting survey on planning, localization processes and monitoring indicators of SDG4-Education 2030, the feasibility of the implementation strategies as presented in the FFA and a list of relevant national SDG 4-Education 2030 reference documents (e.g. list of integrated indicators, Terms of Reference of the SDG4-Education 2030 focal point, so on).

Participants

Targeted participants of the meeting are senior experts, policy-makers and analysts in charge of or involved in the implementation of national development and education strategies and leading activities related to the implementation of the SDG4-Education 2030 targets in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia:

- Up to five senior officials from the Ministry of Education and other relevant institutions. It is suggested that each Member State nominates a Vice-Minister of Education, one official in charge of the national coordination of SDG 4-Education 2030 (i.e., national focal point for SDG4-Education 2030); one/two official(s) responsible for education planning/statistics; and one/two official(s) from the Ministry or relevant state organization responsible for thematic area(s) of SDG4-Education 2030 that is/are considered a national priority;
- UNESCO Headquarters, UNESCO Bangkok, UNESCO Almaty, UNESCO Tashkent, UNESCO Teheran, and UNESCO Institutes and Centres;
- International development and donor agencies and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations, including UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, UN Women, UNFPA, UNEP, OSCE, European Commission, British Council, and CAREC;
- CSOs/NGOs, teacher unions, private sector, philanthropic organizations and academia, including Agha Khan Foundation, Open Society Foundation, Microsoft, UNESCO Chairs (e.g., Al-Farabi University and Abai University in Almaty), National Information-Analytical Centre (Kazakhstan), and Academy of Education (Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan).

Financial arrangements

- Organizers will cover the accommodation and travel costs (daily subsistence allowance) of the official country delegation (five members).
- All other participants are expected to cover their own travel costs and other expenses.

Registration Timeline

All country nominations should be sent to UNESCO Almaty by 20 January 2017. Upon receiving the official nominations, individual invitation letters will be issued to facilitate visa applications and travel preparation.

Language

The working languages for the meeting are Russian and English. The English-Russian translation of materials and interpretation will be available.

Contact

To receive more information or to indicate your interest in attending the meeting, please kindly contact:

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Key Reference Documents

- 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report – Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/GMR/images/2014/2016_Concept_Note_rev2.pdf
- Country Readiness to Monitor SDG 4 Education Targets: Regional Survey for the Arab States
<http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/country-readiness-to-monitor-sdg4-education-targets-regional-survey-for-the-arab-states-2016-en.pdf>
- Framework for Action Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002456/245656e.pdf>
- Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP on ESD)
<https://en.unesco.org/gap>
- Incheon Declaration
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002331/233137E.pdf>
- Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002325/232555e.pdf>
- Sustainable Development Data Digest: Laying the Foundation to Measure Sustainable Development Goal 4 (November 2016)
<http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/laying-the-foundation-to-measure-sdg4-sustainable-development-data-digest-2016-en.pdf>
- Thematic Indicators to Monitor the Education 2030 Agenda – Technical Advisory Group Proposal (October 2015)
<http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/43-indicators-to-monitor-education2030.pdf>
- UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.phpURL_ID=12949&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
- UNESCO Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation, Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1974)
http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.phpURL_ID=13088&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
- UNESCO Roadmap for Implementing GAP on ESD (November 2014)
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1674unescoroadmap.pdf>
- United Nations - Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

